



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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of the Interior**

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# Media Advisory

## Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Federal and Indian Country Officials to Speak at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service on May 4**

**WASHINGTON** – Jason Thompson, Acting Deputy Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS), and Bill Denke, Chairman of the Indian Country Law Enforcement Section of the International Chiefs of Police, are among federal representatives slated to speak at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at the United States Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M.

The Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service honors tribal, state, local and federal law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty while serving on federal Indian lands and in the tribal communities. It is also during this occasion when the names of the officers who will be added to the Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial monument at the academy are formally announced.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service will be live-streamed. To view the event, visit <http://www.ksvpradio.com/BIA> and type in the password “biamemorial.”

**WHO:** **Jason Thompson**, Acting Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, DOI  
**Bill Denke**, Chairman, Indian Country Law Enforcement Section, International Chiefs of Police  
**Connie Patrick**, Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, Artesia, N.M.  
**Steve Cash**, Captain of Police, Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police, Ada, Okla.  
**Jesse Delmar**, Director, Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, Window Rock, Ariz.

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## Page 2 – 26<sup>th</sup> Annual ICLEOM Service

**WHAT:** BIA OJS Acting Deputy Bureau Director Thompson will deliver opening remarks and serve as master of ceremonies at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service where the names of three fallen law enforcement officers will be added to the memorial.

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. MDT.

**WHERE:** BIA Indian Police Academy, DHS Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, 1300 West Richey Avenue, Artesia, N.M. Phone (505) 748-8151 for directions.

**CREDENTIALS:** This invitation is extended to working media representatives, who are required to display sanctioned media credentials for admittance to the event. Press seating will be provided. Credentialed media covering the event should be in place by 9:45 a.m. for the program beginning at 10:00 a.m.

To view an image of the Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and a list of the officers' names inscribed on it, visit <http://www.fletc.gov/about-fletc/locations/artesia/indian-country-law-enforcement-officers-memorial.html>.

The event is held annually on the first Thursday in May, BIA-OJS conducts the memorial service in conjunction with International Chiefs of Police's Indian Country Law Enforcement Section and other law enforcement organizations and agencies, including the National Sheriffs' Association and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers in Artesia, where the monument, academy and memorial service are located. The Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers and representatives of the Chickasaw Nation and Navajo Nation, whose officers are being added to the memorial this year, will be in attendance. The names of three officers added at this year's ceremony will bring the total number listed on the memorial to 114:

- **Navajo Nation Police Officer Leander Frank** who, on August 30, 2016, was killed in a traffic accident while responding to a disturbance call in the Chinle District of the Navajo Nation Reservation.
- **Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Agent Robert Patrick Flickinger** who, on March 7, 2008, was killed in a traffic accident within the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma while serving in an undercover narcotics investigation of an outlaw motorcycle organization.
- **Navajo Nation Chief of Police Hoska "Hoskie" Thompson** who, on October 21, 1949, succumbed to freezing temperatures while trying to serve civil papers at a remote canyon area on the Navajo Reservation near the Arizona-New Mexico border.

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### **Page 3 – 26<sup>th</sup> Annual ICLEOM Service**

The formal ceremony consists of full law enforcement honors with flag presentation, 21-gun salute, honor guard, traditional drum song and prayer, officer roll call, and family recognition. Each year, the invited dignitaries provide keynote remarks at the ceremony.

The Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was first dedicated on May 7, 1992, at the Indian Police Academy then located in Marana, Ariz. The academy and memorial were later moved to their present site, where the latter was re-dedicated on May 6, 1993.

The memorial's design is based upon indigenous concepts. Comprised of three granite markers sited within a circular walkway lined with sage, a plant of spiritual significance to many tribes, the memorial includes four planters filled with foliage in colors representing people of all nations. The planters represent the four directions and are located near the walkway's entrance.

The earliest inscribed name dates back to 1852. In addition to those from BIA and tribal law enforcement, officers listed represent numerous law enforcement agencies including the U.S. Border Patrol, the New Mexico State Police, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Navajo County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Customs Bureau, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The list includes one female officer from the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety who was killed in 1998; a father and son, both BIA officers, who died in 1998 and 2001, respectively; and two FBI agents killed on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975.

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